

## **Northeast Region Forest Pest Update – 09/18/06**

### **Topics covered this month:**

#### **Insects:**

Boxelder bugs  
Brown fruit chafers  
Grapevine beetle  
Gypsy moth  
EAB new infestation in IL  
EAB found again in Maryland  
Jack pine budworm on Red Pine in Oneida Co.  
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid found in MI, again  
Root Weevils invading homes

#### **Diseases:**

Beech bark disease surveys completed  
Tar spot

#### **Other:**

Firewood ban on state properties  
Hickory mortality, samples collected  
Out-of-state firewood banned on National Forests in WI

### **Insects:**

**Boxelder Bugs** – last year was a good year for Boxelder Bugs and unfortunately their populations are even higher this year. I've gotten many reports, phone calls, samples, and complaints about these pests. Boxelder bugs are a true bug and are found wherever boxelder grows. They feed on the female flowers, the seeds, and sometimes the twigs of boxelder. They will occasionally feed on other maples and ash. They have piercing/sucking mouthparts to suck the sap from boxelder trees; they do not bite people. In the fall they congregate in/near houses & foundations trying to find overwintering sites. Although many young insects may be present in the fall, only adults survive the winter. The photo at right shows mostly immature boxelder bugs, there is one adult bug which has more black and a slightly more orangish color in the top center of the photo.



Some homes are especially attractive to boxelder bugs, while neighboring buildings may not be as attractive. This usually depends upon the amount of southern or sunny exposure a building has. Boxelder bugs like sunny areas and are attracted to buildings with a lot of southern exposure. The new Northeast Region Headquarters building seems to be fairly attractive to these insects. As the weather cools, these insects will attempt to enter houses near foundations, under siding or shingles, and walls and attics. Use the same methods of control for boxelder bugs that you do for multicolored asian ladybugs. Once they are in your home you can vacuum them up, if

you spray them they can stain whatever they are sitting on a brownish color and they have a smell that is not so nice if you squish them.

**Brown fruit chafers** – these chunky, mottled brown beetles (right a photo from critterzone.com) have been found feeding on fruit trees in Brown County. The adults, which are smaller than a June Beetle but larger than a Rose Chafer, eat rotting fruit and nectar. The larvae feed on rotten wood and dung. When the adults take flight they make a loud buzzing sound, much like a large bee. They are very fuzzy underneath and when I the first samples I received I thought had molded but upon closer inspection I determined that they were supposed to be that color and they were supposed to be fuzzy on the bottom. They're actually a pretty neat looking beetle.



**Grapevine Beetle** – two of these beetles (right, photo by Carolyn Rock) have been sent to me recently. These large beetles are related to June Beetles and are about the same size or slightly larger. Adult grapevine beetles feed on leaves and fruit of wild grapes. Eggs are laid on stumps or rotting logs laying on the ground and the larvae feed on the decaying wood.



**Gypsy moth** - from Bill McNee, NER gypsy moth suppression coordinator. The DNR gypsy moth suppression program will soon be holding its fall training sessions on how to apply for the 2006-07 gypsy moth spray program. This session will cover the biology and management of the gypsy moth, features of the spray program, and responsibilities of county and municipal staff. The northeast Wisconsin session will be:

Friday, September 29: Howard, Brown County

- 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- DNR Service Center, 2984 Shawano Ave.

Please register by contacting Bill McNee at [bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us).

Potential participants in the program should be aware that the availability of cost sharing is uncertain. The House and Senate have yet to reconcile differing budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2007. This may not happen until after the fall elections and we wouldn't know funding levels until January. Currently, the President's proposed budget contains \$200,000 for spraying on non-federal lands. With gypsy moth populations exploding on the east coast and in Michigan, participants may receive little or no cost sharing.

**Emerald Ash Borer in Illinois** – on Sept. 1, the IL Dept. of Ag announced that EAB had been confirmed in Winnetka, IL. This now makes 4 sites in IL where EAB has been found. Winnetka is a northern suburb of Chicago, located just north of Willmette where EAB was found in July.

**Emerald Ash Borer found again in Maryland** – in 2003 EAB was illegally transported from Michigan to Maryland on infested ash nursery stock. That nursery stock was destroyed but they suspected that adult beetles had emerged from those trees before they could be identified and destroyed. In August of this year, Maryland Department of Agriculture cut down their detection trees around the state and two of those trees were infested with EAB. These trees were in the

area of the original 2003 introduction. No adult emergence holes were found on the infested detection trees.

**Jack Pine Budworm on Red Pine in Oneida County** – I visited a red pine stand in Oneida County where Jack Pine Budworm is defoliating Red Pine trees. I met Kyoko Scanlon (state pathologist) and Todd Lanigan (my counterpart in West Central Region) at the site. Todd has lots of problems with Jack Pine Budworm defoliating Red Pine in his region so he was able to show us what to look for. This was a pure red pine stand with no jack pine mixed in but jack pine budworm was still able to build up its population enough to cause significant defoliation to the red pine trees. We took some samples and looked for eggmasses (in photo above the whitish areas on the needles are eggmasses) and determined that the population should be even higher next year, creating additional defoliation and stress to the trees. From a distance the damage appears as a thinning crown with new foliage being the only foliage left in the crown (right).



**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid found in Michigan** – once again Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) has been found in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. This tiny, but destructive, insect has been found twice before in Michigan on nursery stock which was subsequently destroyed. This time HWA was found on trees already in the landscape. The latest finding is in Emmet County, Michigan, which is just south of the bridge. The infested trees had been planted in 2003; tracebacks of the entire shipment that arrived with the infested trees allowed inspectors to locate the other trees, some of which were also infested, all were planted within 2 miles of each other. Discussions about eradication are currently under way.

Hemlock woolly adelgid is a small exotic insect from Asia similar to a fuzzy aphid or fuzzy scale. It was first found in the US in 1924 and has spread through NJ, PA, MA, CT, southern NY, and is continuing to spread, killing hemlock wherever it goes. HWA attaches itself to the base of a needle and sucks the sap of hemlock. The population of HWA on a tree will become so numerous that they'll cause stunting, early needle loss, and tree death within a few years. They attack all ages of hemlocks anywhere that the tree can be found, from pure stands to yard trees.

**Root Weevils invading homes** – I've had multiple reports from Marinette, Oconto, and Shawano Counties of Root Weevils coming into homes. These small weevils are mostly Strawberry Root Weevils (right) but you may also find Black Vine Weevils, both of which are a dark blackish color. These beetles are unable to fly because the wing covers are joined together; if you disturb them they will drop to the ground and play dead. The larvae and adults of Strawberry Root Weevils feed on the roots and foliage of strawberry and related plants. The black vine weevil is very similar to the strawberry root weevil, just slightly larger (10-12 mm) and the wing covers have small,



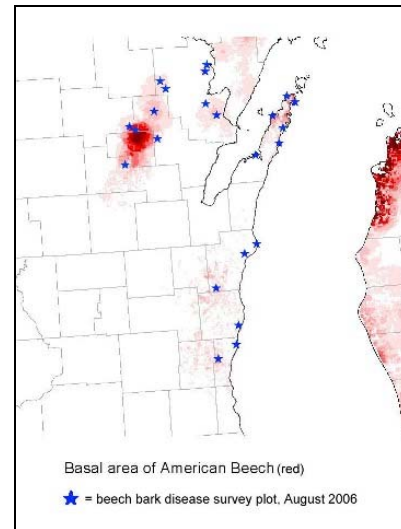
scattered patches of whitish or yellowish hairs. Immature Black Vine Weevils feed on roots of many different evergreens and shrubs.

Root weevils wander into homes most frequently following hot, dry weather like we had this summer. The insects apparently are attracted to the moisture of the building. Inside homes, root weevils cause no injury to humans or household furnishings but they can be quite a nuisance. Control usually consists of vacuuming the weevils once they have entered the house.

## Diseases:

**Beech Bark Disease surveys complete, none found –** Bill McNee complete a survey of Beech (*Fagus sp.*) in eight counties in northeastern Wisconsin looking for Beech Bark Disease. At least 30 trees were examined at each of 23 sites (blue spots on map at right); Beech Bark Disease was not found at any of the sites. Beech Bark Disease is currently found in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and is steadily moving our way which makes these surveys important as an early detection tool. For more information on this survey contact Bill McNee at [bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:bill.mcnee@dnr.state.wi.us) For more information on how beech bark disease kills trees check out the following

Forest Service website <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/beechnark/fidl-beech.htm> . The good news about beech bark disease is that a very small percentage of beech trees appear to be resistant to the disease. We're unsure what the resistance mechanism is but somehow they survive. This makes us hopeful that we will not lose beech completely from the forests where it's currently a component.



**Tar Spot -** Tar spot, a fungal leaf disease that affects maples, has been observed in Door, Brown, Oconto, and Manitowoc Counties this year. The raised shiny black tar-like spot on the leaf is the



fruiting body of the fungus. Usually it is merely cosmetic damage, people don't like to look at spotty leaves. Occasionally the damage will be so severe that the tree will drop its leaves early. The infections that I've seen have ranged from only one per leaf to more than 10 spots per leaf and I have seen both species of the disease this year, one which produces large black spots and the other which produces smaller black spots (photo showing the difference).

## Other:

**Firewood ban on state properties -** effective April 1, 2006, the Wisconsin DNR prohibited the use of out-of-state firewood on any of the agency's properties with an emergency rule. This ruled was designed to help reduce the spread of harmful forest pests and diseases including (but not limited to) Emerald Ash Borer, Oak Wilt, and Gypsy Moth. Tighter restrictions regarding firewood on state owned properties are planned with a proposed permanent rule. The rule states that firewood brought to a state property must come from an area no more than 50 miles away.



The state Natural Resources Board approved the new rule on Aug. 16; the state Legislature must also approve the rule before it can take effect. For more information on firewood and the permanent rule check out the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/>

**Hickory mortality, samples collected and submitted** – you may recall from past Pest Updates that we’ve been having problems with hickory dying. These hickories (primarily Bitternut Hickory in this region) would show crown dieback/death and the growth of epicormic branches along the trunk one year, followed by the wilting of the epicormic branches and the death of the tree the following year. A Forest Service researcher had requested samples from these dead/dying hickory trees to try to determine the cause of this mysterious mortality that was showing up in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Samples of hickory were sent from Oconto, Calumet, and Shawano Counties here in the Northeast Region, as well as other counties around the state. Photo at right shows one of the samples I collected with staining from a fungus. The researchers will have a preliminary report out soon but have said that they’re finding the fungus *Ceratocystis* in many of the samples. They’re currently “growing” the fungus so that they have enough to send off for species identification to determine exactly what species of *Ceratocystis* is attacking the trees. I’ll keep you updated on the results as I get them.



**Out-of-State Firewood Banned on National Forests in WI** – a Firewood Restriction Order was recently announced banning the use of out of state firewood on federal lands within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin. The order states that the possession, storage, or transport of out of state firewood is prohibited on any National Forest lands, roads and trails in Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Oneida, Florence, Forest, Langlade and Oconto Counties. The ban takes effect immediately. For more information or to read the complete order check out their website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/>

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fh/index.htm>